

To whom it may concern:

My name is David Marchand and I am a supporter of Methuen Community Television MCTV22 as well as a producer of a local television program on that channel called "Health Department Update". In addition, I also work for the City of Methuen (Massachusetts) Health Department.

I have recently been informed that the telephone companies want to eliminate the local video franchising rules that protect and ensure the existence of community television stations. I cannot stress how imprudent a decision like this would affect the local communities. We "without question" need franchising rules that support access TV, not oppose them.

For 3 decades individuals and non-profit organizations have benefited from the current video franchising regulations. We have watched and involved ourselves in a diversity of programs that teach, inform and provide local communities with local information. There are also opportunities to access the tools and training to produce our own shows. **The Methuen Health Department has produced quite a few shows with topics that range from West Nile Virus Protection to Insect and Rodent Control for Property Owners.** These opportunities to produce shows with local information would deteriorate if the rules that govern video franchising were relaxed.

The telephone companies claim the existing rules and franchises are an obstacle that prevents them from entering the video service delivery business. I believe that the cost far outweighs the benefit from allowing them to enter another market.

Some executive in some boardroom thought that this market would be an excellent venue to increase the bottom line so they thought it might be a good idea to apply some pressure on the FCC (and Congress) into modifying some of the regulations.

This is an opportunity for the FCC to take a stand and to show some integrity by making a decision that makes sense. Please protect PEG channels and facilities and continue to allow local municipalities the authority to require local video franchising. This decision will help protect localism in the media.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Marchand
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